

#### ABSTRACT

An artificial disc having a pair of opposing baseplates, for seating against opposing vertebral bone surfaces, separated by a ball and socket joint that includes a solid ball mounted to protrude from one of the baseplates. The ball is captured within a curvate socket formed in a peak of a convex structure integral with the other of the baseplates. The socket is formed by opposing curvate pockets, one on the convex structure and one on a retaining cap that is secured to the other of the baseplates. The ball rotates and angulates in the socket. The ball and socket joint therefore permits the baseplates to rotate and angulate relative to one another.